

CPYRGHT

(AIR POWER)

THE SENATE CALLED TODAY ON THE NATION'S INTELLIGENCE CHIEF TO TELL IF HIS AGENTS REPORT RUSSIA HAS SURPASSED THE U.S. IN AIR POWER.

THE SPECIAL ARMED FORCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIR POWER CALLED CIA DIRECTOR ALLEN W. DULLES TO TESTIFY AT A SECRET HEARING AT 10:00 A.M.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE PLANNED NOT TO RELEASE EVEN A CENSORED TRANSCRIPT OF HIS TESTIMONY BECAUSE OF THE TIGHT SECRET SURROUNDING CIA INFORMATION.

BUT SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD ASK DULLES TO TELL WHAT HIS INTELLIGENCE SOURCES KNOW ABOUT RUSSIAN PROGRESS IN DEVELOPMENT OF INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES AND JET BOMBERS.

4/18 -- GE 919 A

(AIR POWER)

REPUBLICAN SENATORS TODAY PRESSED TO BROADEN A SENATE INVESTIGATION OF AIR POWER TO INCLUDE THE NAVY'S AIR CAPABILITIES.

SENS. LEVERETT SALTONSTALL (R., MASS.) AND JAMES H. DUFF (R., PA.) SAID THAT UNLESS A SPECIAL SENATE ARMED SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE LOOKS INTO THE NAVY'S AIR ARM, IT WILL NOT GET A COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE NATION'S AIRPOWER.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE, HEADED BY SEN. STUART SYMINGTON (D., MO.) WAS SET UP SPECIFICALLY TO INVESTIGATE THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE AIR FORCE AND WHETHER THE U.S. IS FALLING BEHIND IN THE AIR RACE WITH RUSSIA.

SYMINGTON HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S MANDATE IS BROAD ENOUGH FOR IT TO GO INTO THE AIR AND MISSILE CAPABILITIES OF THE NAVY AND ARMY. BUT HE HAS POSTPONED ANY DECISION ON WHETHER TO BROADEN THE INVESTIGATION TO INCLUDE THE OTHER TWO SERVICES.

4/18 -- E 148 P

ADD 1 AIR POWER (148P)

SALTONSTALL AND DUFF MADE IT CLEAR THEY WILL PRESS FOR A BROADENED INVESTIGATION.

DUFF TOLD REPORTERS THE NAVY'S AIR ARM IS "AS MUCH A COMPONENT PART OF OUR AIR POWER AS THE AIR FORCE."

"THIS IS NOT AN INQUISITION BUT AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE ALL THE FACTS," DUFF SAID. "IF WE LEAVE OUT THE NAVY WE WON'T GET ALL THE FACTS."

SYMINGTON SUGGESTED IT WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY TO GO INTO THE ARMY'S MISSILE CAPABILITIES, SINCE THE ARMY ALONG WITH THE NAVY IS DEVELOPING A BALLISTIC MISSILE WITH A 1,500-MILE RANGE.

THE REPUBLICAN DEMAND APPEARED TO BE PART OF AN ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY TO TAKE THE COUNTER-OFFENSIVE AGAINST DEMOCRATIC CRITICS OF ITS AIR POWER POLICIES. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE REPUBLICAN SENATORS IN FURNISHING AMMUNITION FOR THE COUNTER-OFFENSIVE.

ASKED ABOUT THE REPUBLICAN COUNTER-OFFENSIVE TODAY, SYMINGTON SAID HE HAS NOT MENTIONED "ANYTHING ABOUT LAGGING AIR POWER" SINCE THE INVESTIGATION WAS AUTHORIZED. IF THE REPUBLICANS PLAN A POINT-BY-POINT REBUTTAL, HE SAID, IT WILL BE AGAINST INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

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CPYRGHT

ADD 2 AIR POWER

THE SUBCOMMITTEE TODAY HEARD A THREE-HOUR, TOP SECRET BRIEFING ON RUSSIAN AIR POWER FROM CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR ALLEN W. DULLES. DULLES CAME EQUIPPED WITH SLIDES AND CHARTS, PRESUMABLY PORTRAYING SOVIET AIR CAPABILITIES.

SYMINGTON DECLINED TO DISCUSS ANY ANGLE OF THE BRIEFING. HE SAID IT WAS "PROBABLY THE MOST CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WE WILL HAVE IN THESE HEARINGS."

4/18 -- TS 202 P